

(12) **UK Patent Application** (19) **GB** (11) **2 235 869** (13) **A**

(43) Date of A publication 20.03.1991

(21) Application No 8913421.7

(22) Date of filing 10.06.1989

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(51) INT CL⁶
A47L 23/05

(52) UK CL (Edition K)
A4K KBA K157 K159 K162 K177
U1S S1237

(56) Documents cited
GB 1081624 A

(58) Field of search
UK CL (Edition J) A4K KBA
INT CL⁴ A46B, A47L

(54) **Disposable shoe-cleaning package**

(57) A disposable, shoe-cleaning package comprises a laminated pack having an impervious, preferably semi-rigid, backing sheet 5 bonded fully round the edges 8 with a removable, flexible, impervious face film 7, and a layer or pad of absorbent material 6 impregnated with shoe-cleaning material retained between said face film and said backing sheet whereby, in use, when the face film is stripped from the package, said impregnated layer or pad of absorbent material is carried on said backing sheet so that the package may be held to apply shoe-cleaning material to a shoe.

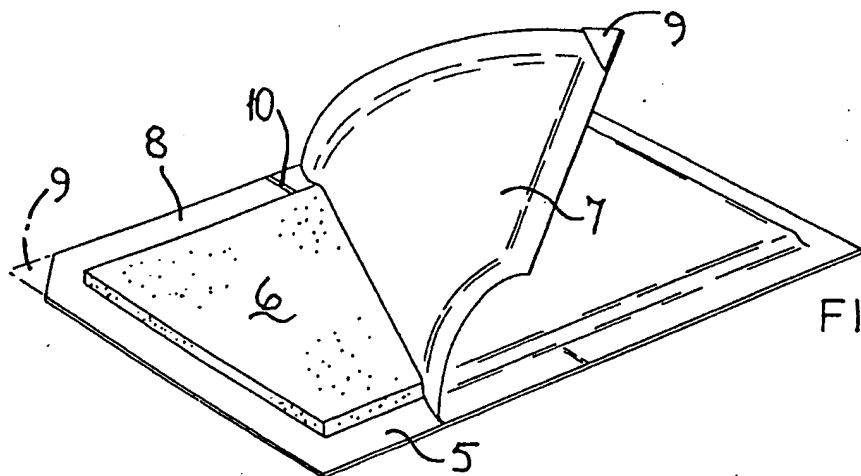


FIG. 3

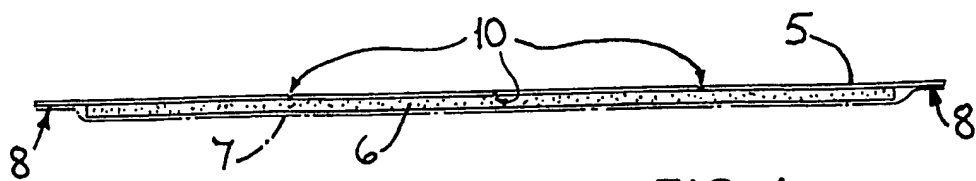


FIG. 1

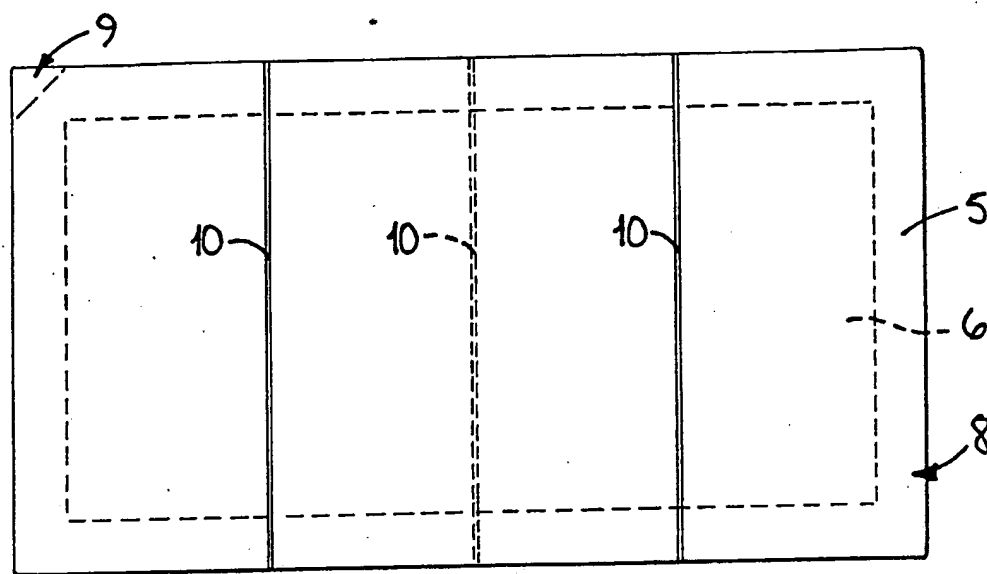


FIG. 2

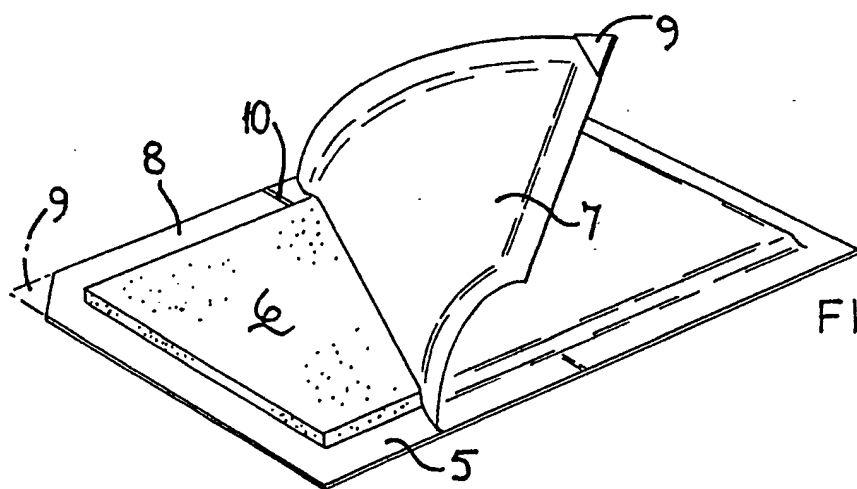


FIG. 3

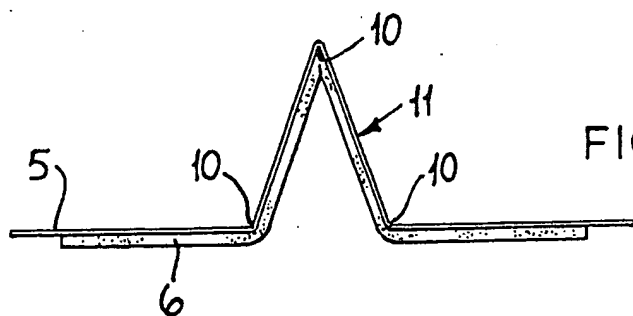


FIG. 4

DISPOSABLE SHOE-CLEANING PACKAGE

The present invention relates to a disposable shoe-cleaning package which is intended for a one-time use before it is discarded.

Traditionally shoes were cleaned, after removal of extraneous dirt, by the application of a polish, often wax-based, followed by rubbing and polishing with a buffing aid such as a cloth, pad or brush.

To suit the requirements of the catering (hotel) industry, a number of shoe shine serviettes have been produced which include polish and a rubbing cloth or equivalent, but the polish is applied by a cloth held directly in the hand, so that the hands are soiled. Accordingly, such applicators can only reasonably be used where there is access to hand-washing facilities.

It is accordingly an object of the present invention to provide a shoe-cleaning package which can be used without soiling the hands.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a shoe-cleaning package with ready control over the quantity of shoe-cleaning material applied.

According to the present invention, a disposable shoe-cleaning package comprises a laminated pack having a firm, preferably semi-rigid, impervious backing sheet, a removable, flexible, impervious face film bonded fully round the edges with a layer of absorbent material impregnated with shoe-cleaning material retained between said face film and said backing sheet whereby, in use, when the face film is stripped from the package, said impregnated layer of absorbent material is carried on said backing sheet so that the package may be held to apply shoe-cleaning material to a shoe.

Preferably, lines of weakness are formed in the semi-rigid backing sheet to facilitate bending of said

backing sheet in use so that pressure applied to said backing sheet may be varied to control expression of shoe-cleaning material from the layer of absorbent material.

5 Preferably, also, a limited area of the bond between the face film and the backing sheet is weakened so as to facilitate the initiation of the stripping of the face film from the package.

10 The shoe-cleaning material may be a liquid, emulsion or paste and may be a polish which can subsequently be buffed and polished by application of a cloth or other buffing implement. Preferably, however, the shoe-cleaning material is a self-shine preparation which dries to give a glossy surface that does not require
15 further buffing. The term 'impervious' is defined in relation to the shoe-cleaning material and/or any solvent or the like included therein.

 The layer of absorbent material retained in the shoe-cleaning package of the invention may be a thick layer
20 of flexible polyurethane foam.

 In order that our invention be more readily understood, a preferred embodiment will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

25 Figure 1 shows a schematic section of a shoe-cleaning package according to the present invention;

 Figure 2 shows a plan view of Figure 1;

 Figure 3 shows a perspective view of a partially-stripped package as shown in Figures 1 and 2, and

30 Figure 4 shows a stripped shoe-cleaning package as shown in Figures 1-3 when prepared for use.

 Referring to the Figures, a semi-rigid paper/plastic backing sheet 5 carries a 2mm sponge pad 6 of absorbent polyurethane foam impregnated with a self-
35 shining shoe-cleaning preparation. The shoe-cleaning

package of the invention is completed with a flexible face film 7 of paper/polythene or an aluminium laminate which is heat welded at the edges of backing sheet 5 and face film 7 round periphery 8 of the package. The thus-sealed package
5 limits evaporation of water or other solvent from the shoe-cleaning preparation.

A small corner area 9 of the peripheral bond at 8 is weakened in known fashion to provide an initiation point so that face film 7 can be stripped from the package.
10 Three lines of weakness 10 are formed in backing sheet 5 so that after stripping off face film 7, the package can be folded as shown in Figure 4, so that centre portion 11 of backing sheet 5 can be gripped easily. In use, centre
15 portion 11 serves not only as a handle by which the package can be gripped but by varying the pressure of grip, squeezing of sponge pad 6 can be varied to control the amount of shoe-cleaning preparation expressed from the pad for application to a shoe. Optionally, instead of folding the backing sheet, a handle (not shown) may be bonded to
20 centre portion 11 of backing sheet 5.

The shoe-cleaning package of the invention thus enables shoe-cleaning preparations to be applied to a shoe without soiling the hand whilst also giving the improvement of the end-result (polished shoes) provided by the control
25 of the amount of preparation applied.

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Claims:

1. A disposable shoe-cleaning package comprises a laminated pack having a firm, preferably semi-rigid, impervious backing sheet bonded fully round the edges with a removable flexible, impervious face film and a layer of absorbent material impregnated with shoe-cleaning material retained between said face film and said backing sheet whereby, in use, when the face film is stripped from the package, said impregnated layer of absorbent material is carried on said backing sheet so that the package may be held to apply shoe-cleaning material to a shoe.

2. A shoe-cleaning package according to claim 1 wherein lines of weakness are formed in the semi-rigid backing sheet to facilitate folding of said backing sheet in use whereby varied pressure can be applied to said backing sheet to control expression of shoe-cleaning material from the layer of absorbent material.

3. A shoe-cleaning package according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a limited area of the bond between the face film and the backing sheet is weakened so as to facilitate the initiation of the stripping of the face film from the package.

4. A shoe-cleaning package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the shoe-cleaning material is a liquid, emulsion or paste.

5. A shoe-cleaning package according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the shoe-cleaning material is a polish which may subsequently be polished by the application of a buffing implement.

5.

6. A shoe-cleaning package according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the shoe-cleaning material is a self-shine preparation which dries to give a glossy surface that does not require further buffing.

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7. A disposable shoe-cleaning package substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

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